

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
Closing statement

Ecological Civilization Forum

15 October 2021, 12:00-13:00 Beijing time (GMT+8)

H.E. Mr. Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of China, President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

H.E. Mr. Zhao Yingmin, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China,

Mr. Wang Yubo, Governor of Yunnan Province,

Excellencies,

Honourable delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Throughout the past two days, we have shared our vision towards building collective action and driving transformative change. We have voiced our ideas to reconcile social and economic development with socio-ecological objectives, to reduce the pressure on biodiversity, and to address human inequity. We have all underscored the risks of biodiversity loss, the sectoral shifts needed to move away from unsustainable consumption and production, and the solutions at hand and those that are emerging.

Given the deep and critical interconnections, systemic interventions are urgently required from all sectors of society.

In essence, our discussions point to the importance of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

This was made possible thanks to H.E. Minister Huang Runqiu, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, together with the active participation of other government ministers, as well as intergovernmental and non-State actor representatives.

You have all contributed to important exchanges of knowledge on ecological civilization, and breakthrough announcements on mainstreaming biodiversity, finance and natural capital accounting, to name a few.

These are all essential for fast-tracking the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In response to the global crises of biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, pollution and climate change, the Government of China has made extraordinary achievements which have been demonstrated during this Forum through examples shared by different provinces. Among them, China has upheld the concept of harmonious coexistence between man and nature, showing how to turn its vision into practice.

I am also encouraged by China's efforts to advance a whole-of-government approach to biodiversity conservation and its concerted progress towards mainstreaming biodiversity across the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors, among others.

These sectors not only depend on biodiversity: they are critical for climate mitigation and adaptation, food security, natural resource provisions, services and benefits, including preventing risks from future pandemics.

Together with dedicated research and technology, and long-term domestic planning, China is showing the way forward, instilling and accelerating a green transformation across all government sectors and industries.

As the global biodiversity community steps up its response through an ambitious post-2020 framework, we must in parallel foster synergies and enhance collaboration across all sectors.

We must ensure that appropriate policies and enabling frameworks lead to the adoption of holistic goals and targets based on science. We must also invest in learning through strategic multidisciplinary dialogues and other measures to strengthen the socioeconomic linkages between biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals, for quality and inclusive sustainable development, while motivating all of society to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

In this context, we will be looking forward to non-State actors sharing their best practices and commitment through the portal of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People. The Agenda encourages all stakeholders to act boldly and champion the global response for biodiversity in the lead-up to COP-15 as the Parties set the course to 2030 with the adoption of a new global biodiversity framework.

I invite all those representing initiatives that were launched this week and at this event to submit your commitments through the online portal of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.

Our journey to Kunming requires strong collaboration and cooperation across our interconnected areas of work, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and other intergovernmentally agreed goals and targets.

Let us work collectively to support the necessary transitions to bend the curve of biodiversity loss and place biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030.

Thank you.
